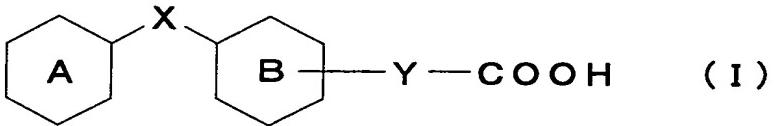
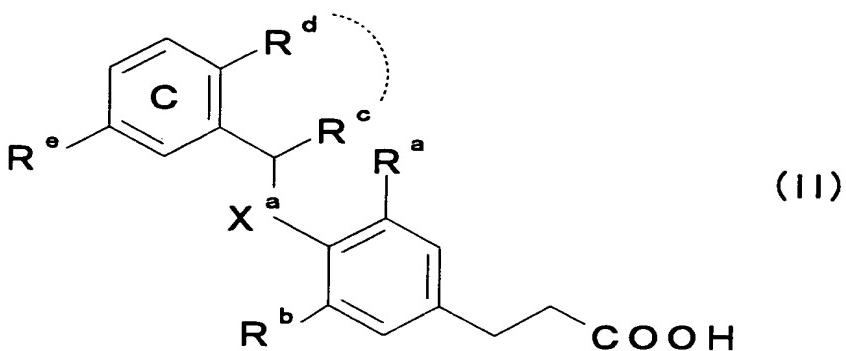


CLAIMS

1. An agent for regulating 14273 receptor function comprising a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.
2. The agent according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a carboxylic acid containing two or more aromatic rings, or a derivative thereof.
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3. The agent according to claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the formula:


wherein ring A is an aromatic ring optionally having substituent(s); ring B is an aromatic ring optionally having substituent(s) in addition to -Y-COOH; X and Y are each a spacer; and -Y-COOH is substituted at any position on ring B, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.
- 20 4. An agent for preventing or treating diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, obesity or anorexia, comprising a 14273 receptor function regulating drug having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.
- 25 5. An agent for regulating stress comprising a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.
6. A compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^a is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy

5 group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s);

R^b is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a

10 heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),

with the proviso that when one of R^a and R^b is a hydrogen 15 atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;

R^c is a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), or a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s);

R^d is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, 20 a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),

25 or R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to each other to form a ring optionally having substituent(s);

R^e is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy

group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),

with the proviso that when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;

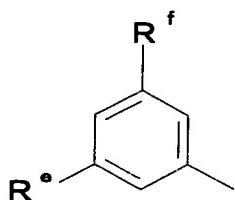
X^a is an oxygen atom, or a methylene group optionally having substituent(s); and

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having further substituent(s),

or a salt thereof, except

(i) 3,5-difluoro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (ii) 3-chloro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (iii) 4-((1,1'-biphenyl)-3-ylmethoxy)-3-chlorobenzene propanoic acid, (iv) 4-[(4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrophenyl)methoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid, and (v) 4-[3-hydroxy-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid.

7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein ring C is a benzene ring represented by the formula:



wherein R^f is a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), or a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s); and R^e is a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s).

8. The compound according to claim 6, wherein

R^d and R^e are each a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, an alkenyl group optionally having

substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, an alkynyl group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, a cycloalkyl group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, a heterocyclic group optionally having

- 5 substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, a heterocyclyoxy group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring, an acyl group free of a
- 10 benzene ring, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring;

when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom; and

- 15 ring C is a benzene ring optionally having further substituent(s) free of a benzene ring.

9. The compound according to claim 6, wherein at least one of R^a and R^b is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s);

20 R^c is a hydrogen atom;

R^d and R^e are each a hydrogen atom, or an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring;

when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;

25 X^a is an oxygen atom; and

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having substituent(s) free of a benzene ring.

10. The compound according to claim 6, wherein at least one of R^a and R^b is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group; R^c is a hydrogen atom; X^a is an oxygen atom; R^d is a hydrogen atom; and R^e is a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

- 35 11. The compound according to claim 6, wherein

R^a is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

R^b is a hydrogen atom, or a fluorine atom;

R^c is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

5 X^a is an oxygen atom;

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having, in addition to R^d and R^e , further substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (iii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) 10 selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl-amino, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono- C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, di- C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, tri- C_{1-6} alkylsilyloxy, and a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms 15 of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C_{6-14} aryloxy group, and (v) a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group; and

(1) when R^d is a hydrogen atom,

then R^e should be (i) a hydroxy group, (ii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono- C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl and di- C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl, (iii) a C_{2-6} alkynyloxy group, (iv) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally having 25 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, or (vi) a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclol-oxy group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an 30 oxygen atom;

(2) when R^e is a hydrogen atom,

then R^d should be (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group, (ii) a C_{6-14} aryl group, (iii) a C_{1-6} alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) with a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group 35 containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms

of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and optionally 5 halogenated C₁₋₆ alkyl, (vi) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group, or (vii) a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom.

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12. The compound according to claim 6, wherein

R^a is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group;

R^b is a hydrogen atom or a fluorine atom;

15 R^c is a hydrogen atom;

R^d is a hydrogen atom, or a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group;

R^e is a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, or a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group;

when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other 20 should not be a hydrogen atom;

X^a is an oxygen atom; and

ring C is a benzene ring having no substituent other than R^d and R^e.

25 13. The compound according to claim 7, wherein R^f is (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (iii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl-amino, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C₁₋₆ alkyl-30 carbamoyl, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, tri-C₁₋₆ alkylsilyloxy, and a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group, or (v) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy 35 group; and

R^e is a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, or a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group.

14. 3,5-Difluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]-benzenepropanoic acid, or 3-fluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

15. 3-(4-[[3-(4-Chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]-3,5-difluorophenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-[[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-[[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-[[3-(2-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)-propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-[[3-(3-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]-oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-[[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-[[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-[[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-methyl-4-[(3-phenoxybenzyl)oxy]phenyl)propanoic acid, or 3-(4-[[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy]-3-methylphenyl)propanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

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16. A prodrug of the compound according to claim 6, except ethyl 4[(2,4-dichlorophenyl)methoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoate.

25 17. The prodrug according to claim 16, which is an ester form of the carboxylic acid.

18. A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound according to claim 6, or a salt thereof, or a prodrug thereof.

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19. A method of regulating the function of 14273 receptor, comprising administering, to a mammal, an effective amount of a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.

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20. A method of preventing or treating diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, obesity or anorexia, comprising regulating the function of 14273 receptor by administering, to a mammal, an effective amount of a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.

21. A method of regulating stress, comprising administering, to a mammal, an effective amount of a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.

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22. Use of a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation, for the production of an agent for regulating 14723 receptor function.

15 23. Use of a 14273 receptor function regulating drug having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation, for the production of an agent for the prevention or treatment of diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, obesity or anorexia.

20 24. Use of a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation, for the production of a stress regulating agent.

25 25. A method of screening for a ligand, agonist or antagonist for a 14273 receptor, comprising using a 14273 receptor, or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.

30 26. A kit for screening for a ligand, agonist or antagonist for a 14273 receptor, comprising a 14273 receptor, or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and a compound having an aromatic ring and a group capable of releasing a cation.